METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENTLY DELIVERING CONTENT TO MULTIPLE REQUESTERS

Abstract of the Disclosure

An Internet communication technique is provided for making efficient use of available bandwidth between network points by analyzing responses to received requests for information items to identify multiple responses that include the same item and optionally that also have a common next hop address, and responding to the multiple requests with a combined packet addressed to multiple addresses. The combined packets include sufficient information from which to generate reliable unicast packets, that will ultimately be formed from the contents of the combined packet. The combined packet is received by a network router identified by a common next hop address, and a sequence of addresses are associated in sub-groups corresponding to common next hop addresses. A plurality of packets are generated based on the combined packet, each of which includes addresses that correspond to destinations that share a common next hop address. The plurality of packets are then sent to their corresponding next hop addresses.